



In the Desert



154 14 19

Chapter 1 by R

She looks up at the sky. The sun is beating down, with no clouds to block it's gaze, and the heat bouncing off of the sand is making everything wobbly and hazy. The desert is getting to her, slowly, and she won't last much longer.

There are birds circling overhead, little black dots in the sky. Occasionally they dive down to pick at the few skeletons that dot the sandy desert, but mostly they just circle around her. Waiting.

She walks on.

Chapter 2 by SaintSayaka



Little do the birds know that she will not be succumbing to the heat anytime soon. But they are becoming quite the nuisance. So she lifts her hand, and gives it a slight wave, as if beckoning someone to hurry up, already.

The birds plummet to the ground, dead.

"A fine meal for some shrew, I'm sure," she remarks as she casually steps on the throat of one that is barely clinging to life.

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She walks on.

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Chapter 2 by Geneva Collins



It's not much longer before she can see a dot on the horizon: a sort of oasis in the midst of death. It's barely recognizable, but with the tall towers on either side, she knows that's home. Well, it will be. She knows the next few miles will feel the hardest.

She walks on.

Chapter 4 by Coraline Castell



Languidly, the dot grows bigger. As it does, she begins to realize that her expectations do not meet her reality. She squints her eyes.

Is that an arrow?

She doesn't even dodge, just moves her arm quickly to the side, like a whip. The arrow lands by her left foot. More follow.

She walks on.

Chapter 5 by Queen of Words



She is now under a full attack. For once, she has to stop and concentrate. A full bubble of protection blossoms around her, and she continues on. Eventually she can see her attackers. Just native wanderers. She waves them aside and they crash to the ground, bleeding from their eyes. She walks on.

Her name is Star.

Chapter 6 by j hugs4books



It appears that time had not healed all wounds. Worse yet, they had anticipated her arrival, though they forgot the power she held. As Star approached the Royal Residence, the source of her exile, she reflected on years past. Nothing had changed. The streets were still rank with

death and blood, the unwashed faces peering through windows still held perpetual fatigue, and she was still an abomination. Years of pain and suffering had passed over her.

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She walks on.

Chapter 7 by Ara Argentum Aurum!



They all scream in fear and run from her. She isn't surprised. After all, her family had plenty of time to slander her name and to make it seem like that she was the enemy all along. Little, perfect Star, named for a powerful force that gives life. A noblewoman with a power, *destined* for greatness, and sure to bring fame and glory to her family name.

Star loved the wrong person. That was the first strike.

Star didn't want to be like her family. That was the second strike.

Star tried to help the people. That was the third strike.

Star tried to kill her mother. That was the final strike.

They thought that she couldn't get through the desert boundary. They thought that she would die. They thought that their force field was indestructible. They underestimated how powerful she really was.

The guards tried to stop her. She killed them all. They weren't innocent. They served her family knowing what they did.

She walks on.

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